ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(FORMERLY CAHABA VALLEY ASSOCIATION.)

HELD WITH

Reeves Grove Baptist Church, Whitney, Ala.

September 9th, 1899.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

A. A. HODGES, ... Moderator.

N. A. HOOD, ... Clerk.

J. M. ADKINS, ... Treasurer.

The next session of this Association will be held with Cedar Grove Church, which is situated on the Central of Georgia and the Southern Railroads, one mile from the town of Leeds, on Saturday, before the second Sunday in September, 1900, at 10 o'clock a. m.

ASHVILLE, ALA.,
THE SOUTHERN ALLIANCE.
1899.

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MINUTES.

Reeves Grove, Ala., September 9th, 1899.

The messengers sent by the various churches to compose the thirty-second annual session of the St. Clair County Baptist Association (formerly the Cahaba Valley Association) met this day with Reeves Grove Church, Whitney, Ala., at the hour of ten o'clock, a. m. After reading of the 122nd and 133rd Psalms by the Moderator, prayer was offered by Rev. A. P. Cobb.

Letters from churches were called for and read by A. A. Hodges, Rev. P. S. Montgomery and Rev. J. W. Sandline. The following named churches were represented and the brethren herein named were enrolled as delegates:

Ashville—Rev. J. S, E. Robinson, Rev. N. A. Hood, A. A. Hodges, J. A. Embry, L. M. Cox, J. R. Neely and J. W. Inzer.
Bethany—J. S. Smith, J. F. Smith and Thos. Jordon.
Bethel—Rev. J C Harris, J. K. Allison, J. M. Adkins. L. V. B. Hawkins and J. F. Wyatt.
Beulah- John R. Dyke and John B. Kinkade.
Cane Creek—Not represented.
Cedar Grove—G. W, Little and F. B. Moore.
Coal City—Rev. A. R. Wyatt, J. W. Waldrip and R. M. Alverson.
Cook Springs—E. B. Polk and C. R. Polk.
Cool Springs—S. T. Hess, W. O. Moore and O. E. Vinyard.
Eden—Not represented.
Friendship—H. N. Hess, J. M. Hess, R. B. Peace, F. M. Mize and S B. Jackson
Greensport—A. C. O'Donnell, H. N. Jones and L. M. Crump.
Gum Springs—Rev. A. P. Cobb, J. A. Stevenson, W. O. Palmer, W. B. McBrayer and E. E. Jester.
Harmony—J. J. Lee.
Hopewell—O. A. Hood, Rev. S. J. Hare, J A. Thompson and L. C. Vaughan.
Macedonia—J. D. Chamness.
Mt. Castle—J. A. Layton.
Mt. Pisgah—W. Z. Smith and J. M. Jones.
Mt. Pleasant—Levy Fincher, A. S. Perry and E. Drummond.
Mt. Zion—Not represented.
New Hope—J. M. Garrett, Rev. W. P. Lovell, N. A. Butterworth, W. C. Rich and E. M. Truett.
New Hope (Jefferson)—G. W. Glass and J. T. Glass.
New Lebanon—G. A. Simmons and G. L. Tucker.
New Prospect—F. M Milam and J. D. Morgan.
Pine Forest- J. B. Holms, S. B. Crow and Vester McCrory.

Pleasant Grove--Not represented.
Pleasant Grove (Shelby)—Rev. W. I. Brasher.
Pleasant Ridge—Not represented.
Pleasant Site—Not represented.
Providence—R. A. Green and D. Holms.
Ragland—Not represented.
Reeves Grove—J. M. Alman, A. B. C. Goode, J. C. Sheffield, Richard Clary and T. N. Montgomery.
Rock Springs—S. M. White and W. C. Fulmer.
Sand Ridge—C. T. Isbell.
Shiloh—T. J. Johnston.
Trinity—Not represented.
Union—L. J. Terry and J. H. Glidewell.
Union Springs—Rev. J. W. Lawley R. F. Courson and T. P. Hawkins.

The letters having been read and the delegates having been enrolled, on motion of N. A. Hood, the regular order of business was suspended and Rev. W. P. Lovell preached the introductory sermon from Eph. 6 : 10. Adjourned one hour for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The association having been called to order at the hour of two o'clock, prayer was offered by W. B. McBrayer. A motion prevailed to enter into the election of officers for the ensuing year. The election resulted as follows: A. A. Hodges was elected Moderator; N. A. Hood, Clerk; and J. M. Adkins, Treasurer.

The following order of business was adopted:

1. Devotional exercises.
2. Reading letters from the churches.
3. Introductory sermon.
4. Election of officers.
5. Call for petitionary letters.
6. Call for correspondents.
7. Appointment of committees to report at present session.
8. Report of standing committees.
9. Miscellaneous business.

Special committees may report at any time in the session. The associatien shall meet at 8:30 a. m, shall have recess at 12 m. for one hour, afternoon session shall convene at 1 o'clock p. m. and shall adjourn at will

Petitionary letters being called for, none were received.

Upon a call being made for correspondents, P. S. Montgomery of the Birmingham Association, and J. W. Sandline of the State Mission Board were received and given a seat in the Body.

On motion volunteers were called for to visit other associations. The following named brethren were endorsed as messengers to other bodies: To the Birmingham Association, J. W. Lawley and Jno. C Harris. To the Etowah Association, Rev. S. J. Hare and J. A. Thompson. To the Calhoun Association, H. N. Jones, W. P. Lovell and J. M. Garrett. To the Coosa River Association, W. P. Lovell. To the State Convention, A. A. Hodges, N. A. Hood, J

W. Lawley, S. J. Hare, W. B. McBrayer, A. C. O'Donnell, O. A. Hood, J. R. Neely, L. M. Cox, J. M. Adkins and J. A. Thompson.

J. R. Neely, J. A. Thompson and W. O. Moore together with the pastor and deacons of Reeves Grove Church were appointed as a committee on devotional exercises.

The following named brethren were apponted as a committee on finances: J. A. Embry, John R. Dyke and W. B. McBrayer.

On motion the report on Sabbath Schools was made a special order for Sunday at 9:30 o'clock.

On motion the regular order of business was suspended and the committee on devotional exercises made the following report: J. S. E. Robinson to preach at Reeves Grove church tonight, W. I. Brasher to preach at Parson's School House and J. W. Lawley to preach at Union Grove School House.

Adjourned to meet Sunday morning at nine o'clock.

SUNDAY MORNING.

After song the Association was called to order by the Moderator. Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. W. I. Brasher.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your committee on Sunday Schools submit the following:

Out of the thirty churches representing themselves in this body seventeen of them report Sunday Schools. We find our people are becoming more interested in the Sunday School work. We believe that every church in our association could and ought to meet every Lord's day for the purpose of learning and teaching the Holy Scriptures. We all know that it is right to learn and teach the Word of God; to learn it for our own good and teach it for the good of others. Question—How can we learn the Word of God best? Ans. By reading the Word itself, with an inquiring mind to know its teachings. We do not object to lesson helps but we believe the better plan is to read the lesson in the Bible and study it in the Bible. The Bible is its own interpreter.

It is surprising to learn how little the members of our churches know what the Word of God says about the doctrines they teach. Why is this? They do not study it as they ought and as they have opportunity. But you say, "What good is there in gaining a knowledge of the Bible?" We say "much every way." By it we know what is right in the sight of God, and by it we know what is right between man and man and in the sight of men. And who can do right until they learn what is right? And what is it that teaches what is right more than the Bible

So brethren and sisters, we are doing wrong if we do not read and study and teach the word of the Lord in our homes and in our churches as we have opportunity. O Lord, help us all to love thy Word.

J. C. Harris, Chairman.

J. A. Embry offered the following amendment to the report:

We recommend the use of the literature of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and we suggest to all of our schools to procure and use the same in their Sunday Schools.

After being discussed by J. C. Harris, N. A. Hood, J. A. Embry, J. W. Sandine, J. W. Lawley, J. M. Adkins, S. B. Crow, and W.

P. Lovell the report was adopted as amended.

An intermission was then had, after which the association convened again and Rev. N. A. Hood preached the missionary sermon from Mark, 16:15. A Collection was taken and $15.50 was received.

Adjourned one hour and a half for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The association having been regularly called to order by the Moderator, prayer was offered by Brother Polk.

On motion of J. C. Harris the report on temperance was read.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

To the brethren of the St. Clair County Association: Your committee on temperance appointed at last session of this association to report at this session beg leave to submit the following report:

We do not believe the term Temperance according to its meanings should be applied to the use of Alcoholic drinks, but Prohibition or total Abstainance in our opinion should be applied to all habits that are so degrading and so damnable in their nature as alcoholic drinks. Take, for instance, the temperate dram drinker that drinks and never gets drunk. He leads many a man to fill a drunkards grave, thereby making temperate drinking a worse example than that of habitual drunkeness, as no one wants to take the drunkard as a model but the temperate dram drinker. We believe that the use of alcohol in any way as a beverage is more hurtful to our people than wars and famines. More than seventy percent of the criminal cases in our courts are due to the use of intoxicating drinks. Thousands of homes are made destitute of peace, happiness and the necessities of life on account of the use of alcoholic drinks. Millions of hearts are bleeding on account of its use. Thousands are being sent to the asylum annually on account of strong drink. Millions are being trampled in the ruts of degradation, sin and ruin and finally sinking down into eternal night, woe and misery on the account of its use. Think of it, poor souls sinking into eternal night on account of its use and yet we as Baptists yes as believers on the Lord Jesus Christ, claiming to be saved from that awful destruction, ransomed by the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, go on heedless turning the bottle to our lips and taking the cursed stuff down our throats and never thinking that some one is looking on our lives as a model.

Taking into consideration the circumstances with which we are surrounded, we would urge upon our churches to use their means, prayers and influences to the utmost of their ability in total abstainance upon the part of all our members. We would urge upon our association as a denomination to use their influence for the cause of prohibition in our midst and elsewhere. Respectfully Submitted, JOHN W. INZER, Chairman.

After being discussed by J. W. Lawley, F. C. Paulk, P. S. Montgomery and J. W. Sandline, the report was adopted.

Adjourned till 8:30 o'clock Monday morning.

MONDAY MORNING.

The Association was called to order at 8:30 o'clock by the Moderator who read the 34th Psalm. Prayer was offered by W. A. Dorsett.

The following named brethren were appointed as a committee on nominations: A. B. C. Goode, J. M. Adkins and N. A. Butterworth.

Motion of J. S. E. Robinson to suspend call of the roll was lost. The roll was then called and absentees stricken from the minutes.

A motion was made by J. W. Lawley to read and discuss all the reports on missions together. Motion carried.

On Motion the regular order of business was suspended and J. A. Embry offered the following amendments to the constitution:

"That each ordained minister, in good standing, living within the bounds of this association who is actively engaged in ministerial work and who is a member of some one of the churches of this association is hereby made an honorary member of this association and shall be entitled to all the privileges of a regularly elected delegate."

"That no member of this association shall be elected Moderator of this body more than two times in succession."

The consideration of these amendments was postponed till the order of miscellaneous business was reached.

A. A. Hodges read the following report on Foreign Missions:

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

To the members of the St. Clair County Association:

We the undersigned who were appointed at the last session of this association a committee to prepare and present to this body at its present session a report on Foreign Missions, beg leave to submit the following report:

We copy below the following taken from the minutes of the Southern Baptist Convention:

Our Heavenly Father the God of missions has greatly blessed our work in foreign lands during the past year. We joyfully render thanks—giving praise to Him for His continued mercies and abundant blessings so graciously bestowed upon the workers and the work. We had a much larger number of converts baptized last year than in any other former year of our Convention's history. Our missions generally are well organized and the outlook is full of hope. Most of the missionaries who were detained at home on account of sickness or want of means to send them have returned to their fields. Besides these, the Board has appointed and sent out an excellent corps of strong, spiritually minded young men and women. Our denomination has cause to thank God for the high character and excellent qualifications of those who have been appointed during the past year. Men and women have gone out who could easily stand at the front in the leading churches of our home land. But they count not these things dear unto them that they may preach Jesus to those in darkness and sin.

During the past year our expenses have been about the same as usual, but as our receipts are smaller, the per centage of expenses is larger. For all the expenses in Richmond; including saleries, room rent, traveling expenses of secretaries, tracts etc.; there was used a little less than ten cents on the dollar. Then the expenses of collecting in the different states, which expenses for collecting amount to a little over five cents more, make the expenses altogether amount to about fifteen cents on the dollar. And the remaining eighty-five cents goes to the missionaries.

We find that we occupy Papal fields as follows: Italy, Brazil and Mexico. Pagan fields: Africa, China and Japan. We have many men and women in these fields besides native helpers. We raised and expended $109.267.00 and our missionaries have reported 845 baptised.

We have copied the foregoing in our report that the brethren and sisters of the association who have not been favored with the minutes of the

Southern Baptist Convention may know something of the grand work of our denomination. We emphasize the fact that southern Baptists belong to and are a part of a great family which is missionary and we appeal to the brethren and sisters of the St. Clair County Association to be faithful to the trust laid upon them, letting their hearts run out for the poor heathen who are in darkness and who are lost without the Gospel. We can and should contribute more during the incoming year than we have in the past.

Respectfully Submitted, A. A. HODGES, Chairman.

A. R. Wyatt, chairman of committee on Home Missions, being absent the report on Home Missions was read by J. A. Embry.

The following is the report:

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

We your committee on Home Missions beg leave to submit the following:

The Home Mission Board was constituted in 1845, and from the date of its organization it has been co-operative. It has sought to form auxiliary relationship with state conventions, district associations and missionary societies. The work and efficiency of this Board has grown continually but within the last decade remarkable progress has been made

The field covers the entire South extending from Maryland to Texas and from Missouri to Florida. It also includes Oklahoma, Indian Territory and Cuba. This Board sends out missionaries who employ themselves in preaching the Gospel, making religious visits to the sick and needy, establishing Sunday Schools, organizing churches, building houses of worship and in distributing Bible tracts and other religious literature.

The work has been expended mainly on the frontier among our native white population, in the mountain regions, in the cities among the negroes and on the island of Cuba. On the frontier our missionaries have done noble work through great persecutions and trials, but in all their hardships and privations they have been faithful and their efforts have been blessed. The great Baptist strength of the South is in a great measure due to the work of the frontier missionary.

Not only has our Board nobly assisted the destitute but it goes into the cities and aids in building the houses of worship and establishing our faith. And, since the cities influence the country more than the country does the cities, it is very important that we should seek the cities as fields of operation. We have already accomplished great good in Cuba and since the war with Spain all barriers to the free access of the Gospel have been removed, and thus the Home Board is enabled to take up its work and carry it on without interruption. Every indication is favorable for the reception of the truth by the natives and God will bless noble work.

The Home Mission Board has sent out under annual appointment since its organization 7270 missionaries who have reported 160,863 additions to the churches and have constituted 2789 churches. It has established about one seventh of all the white churches within the Southern Baptist Convention. Its work has been well said to be "the joy and marvel of our recent history." When we contemplate all the noble deeds done by this Board and the great good it has and is accomplishing, there arises within us a strong desire to aid in its worthy efforts. Let us all as individuals become more missionary and, as the St. Clair County Association, let us do more than we have done heretofore. We will not only help the destitute but will strengthen the Baptist faith and be much benefitted.

Respectfully Submitted, A. R. WYATT, Chairman.

J. B. Shurbett, chairman of committee on State Missions, being absent, J. M. Garrett who was a member of the committee submitted the following:

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

We your committee on State Missions, beg leave to make the following

report:

State Missions is the foundation of Home and Foreign Missions. Through the untiring energy of our state employees the very gratifying results of our home and foreign boards were made possible. Your committee is delighted to report at this time, that, since the last session of this association, the entire debt has been paid up to April 1st, 1899. But in bringing about these glorious results, our state finances have been neglected since that time.

Your committee recommends that our churches come to the aid of this department of our work and enable our board to go to the next State Convention free from debt. Respectfully submitted, J. M GARRETT,

After being discussed by A. A. Hodges, J. W. Lawley, J. W. Inzer, J. C. Harris, P. S. Montgomery, S. J. Hare, J. S E. Robinson, S. M. White, N. A. Hood, J. W. Sandline and F. C. Paulk, the several reports on missions were adopted.

J. W. Inzer read the following report on Ministerial Education;

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Your committee on Ministerial Education beg leave to submit the following report:

We regret to say that there has been but little done by this body for some years past in aid of ministerial education. At your last session, it was agreed by the churches composing this body that the sum of sixty dollars be raised for the purpose of aiding in the work and that the same be equally divided between our young brethren, W. R. Hood and W. A. Dorsett. Both of these brethren attended school, Hood at the Howard and Dorsett at Steels; notwithstanding the help promised them was not forthcoming by perhaps one half. Yet it may be that some of the promises made by churches and brethren at our last meeting will be complied with during the present sitting of this body and we trust such will be the case.

These are worthy young brethren, and in the conscientious judgment of your committee, have given satisfactory evidences of their call by God to the work, and we commend them to the denomination where ever their lots may be cast. Brother Hood, as we are informed, aims to return to the Howard and Brother Dorsett, who is now a member of the Etowah Association desires to attend school at Walnut Grove and is beyond our bounds. We trust the denomination will awaken to the great importance of this work and come to the support of Brother Hood and to the help of such other brethren as may need help in attaining an education and who have had a divine call to the ministry.

Your committee do not feel called upon to make an argument in support of ministerial education by the denomination or of the importance thereof. We believe the time has arrived when every well informed Baptist is ready and willing to admit that, in cases where worthy young brethren have had a divine call to God's ministry and who are not possessed with means to educate themselves, an obligation rests on the denomination and on each member to lend material aid, and this duty should be performed with pleasure.

The question and only question before this body now is as to the best means of doing the work and to this end we recommend that the churches, through their delegates, or messengers, pledge such amounts for ministerial education as they feel will be redeemed, and that preachers in charge of churches within bounds of our association devote one sermon or address to this important subject between now and the first Sunday in January, 1900, and that on such occasion and on such other occasions as our brethren may see proper public collections be taken up in the churches for such purpose: and that all such sums so raised be transmitted to the Treasurer

of this Association to be used by him in defraying the expenses of such young ministers at school as may be designated by this body and at this present session.

Should any of the pledges made at our last session for ministerial education be complied with during this meeting we recommend that the money be paid to the Treasurer of this body, and that it be by him equally divided between our said brethren, Hood and Dorsett, as provided for at the last session of this body.

Respectfully submitted,
J. W. Inzer, Chairman.

After discussion by J. W. Inzer, J. W. Lawley and S. J. Hare, the report was adopted.

On motion the regular order of business was suspended and J. A. Embry, chairman of committee, read the report on Finance. The report is as follows:

We, your committee on finance, submit the following report:

Received for minutes,	$31.34
Received for missions (Sunday's collection)	15.50
Received for missions, state,	14.03
Received for missions, home,	12.85
Received for missions, foreign,	24.30
Received for Orphans' Home,	17.15
Received for ministerial education,	5.00
Received for T. S. Logan, an indigent minister,	1.00
Total amount collected	$120.17

Respectfully submitted,
J. A. Embry,
J. R. Dyke,
W. B. McBrayer.

The report was adopted.

On motion the money collected for missions was turned over to J. W. Sandline who represented the State Mission Board.

The following report on education was read and, after being spoken on by N. A. Hood, J. W. Lawley and J. S. E. Robinson, was adopted.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

The attitude of Baptists towards the cause of education has ever been friendly. They could not afford to assume any other attitude. The religious freedom for which they have ever fought and the doctrines to which they adhere all depend for their existance upon principles of education. Some denominations live because of the popularity of their teachings, but not so with the Baptists. They must live by teaching their doctrines and by showing them to be in conformity with the teachings of the scriptures. Because of this relationship between Baptists and the cause of education, they have always supported that cause.

They have always taken a leading part in educational enterprises. They have been first in establishing denominational schools, first in carrying light to the dark corners of the earth, and second to none in supporting common schools. Today their teachers may be found in every part of our state and they are furnishing more teachers than any other denomination They have two colleges of their own in the state—Howard College, at East Lake, and the Judson Institute, at Marion—both of which have been reported out of debt within the past two years, and now rank high up among the leading colleges of the country. Besides these, at different places in

the state, other schools have been established by the Baptists which are intended to do work auxiliary to Howard College and the Judson Institute, and to give those who are unable to take a college course a good high school education. These are helpful to both the student and to our state institutions. They are helpful to the student in that they fit his high-school course to the courses at Howard and the Judson, thereby enabling him to enter a higher class and take a shorter course in college. They are beneficial to our state institutions in that they give the student a course better suited to the courses at Howard and the Judson than to any other colleges. The nearest of these schools to our Association is the Walnut Grove school, which is fostered by the associations of Etowah, Blount and Marshall counties.

This much Baptists have done for education. We turn now to notice what the people are doing. At the last session of our Legislature a bill was passed requiring teachers to undergo a uniform and more rigid examination than they have hitherto had. What the outcome of this law will be we are not able to say, but we hope that it will result in giving us a better class of teachers. Already some persons who have been teaching and whom the new law has disqualified are at work qualifying themselves to teach under the new law.

The Legislature also enacted a law levying a special tax of ten cents on the hundred dollars for the support of the public schools of this state. This we think will considerably increase the amount of the public funds for schools and will greatly help the cause of education. All in all your committee thinks the educational outlook is good.

Respectfully submitted, W. R. Hood, Chairman.

Adjourned forty minutes for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association reassembled at one o'clock, and after song, was called to order by the Moderator.

The following are the standing committees as appointed by the Moderator:

On Foreign Missions—J. W Inzer, R. M. Alverson, and John R. Dyke.

On Home Missions—J. W. Lawley, A. B. C. Goode, and J. W. Lewis.

On State Missions- W. P. Lovell, W. O. Moore, and S. B. Crow.

On Ministerial Education—W. R. Hood, J. K. Allison, and W. B. McBrayer.

On Education—J. S. E. Robinson, L. Cooke, and W. O Palmer.

On Temperance—J. A. Embry, J. M. Adkins and S. M. White.

On Sabbath Schools—A. R. Wyatt, W. Z. Smith, and J. C. Sheffield.

On Moral and Spiritual condition of our Churches—J. C. Harris, H. N. Jones, and J. O. Layton.

On Documents—S. J. Hare, W. I. Brasher, and H. N. Hess.

Upon the call for the Treasurer's report, the following was read and adopted:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Received from Finance Committee	$91.84
Received from public collection on Sunday	15.50
Total	$107.34

Paid J. W. Sandline, for Missions	$61.15
Paid N. A. Hood, for minutes	31.34
Paid T. H. Trammell, for T. S. Logan	1.00
To be sent to Orphans Home	19.00
Total	$112.49

Respectfully submitted, J. M. Adkins, Treasurer.

The chairmen of the committees on Moral and Spiritual Condition of our Churches and on Documents being absent, no reports were had on these subjects.

The amendments to the Constitution, as offered by J. A. Embry, were taken from the table and adopted.

Collections were taken for the Orphans' Home and for Rev. T. S. Logan, an indigent minister. $9.12 was received for Brother Logan and $4.15 for the Orphans' Home.

The committee on Nominations reported as follows:

We the committee on Nominations make the following report:

We nominate Cedar Grove and Mt. Pleasant as the churches with which this Association may hold its next meeting and recommend a vote of the Association to determine which one of the places it will select. We appoint J. S. E. Robinson as delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention and W. P. Lovell as alternate We recommend Brother N. A. Hood to preach the introductory sermon at the next session of this body, Brother G. W. Lovell as alternate, and Brother C. J. Pike to preach the missionary sermon.

Respectfully submitted,
A. B. C. Goode, Chairman.

By a vote of the association, Cedar Grove was selected as the place for the next meeting of this body and the report was adopted:

On motion of J K. Allison the present executive committee was retained for the ensuing year. The following brethren constitute the committee: J. W. Inzer, N. A. Hood, J. W. Ramsey, G. W. Daughdrill and J. M. Adkins.

On motion the executive committee was directed to prorate the amount to be raised among the different churches constituting the association and, in making such division, to specify the amount needed for each purpose for which the association has been raising money.

On motion the executive committee was authorized to look into the propriety of establishing a mission station somewhere between Reeves Grove Church and the town of Springville, north of the A. G. S. Railroad, and to establish such station if, after investigation, they may think proper.

The following resolution was offered by J. C. Harris: "Resolved that the thanks of this association be tendered to the brethren and sisters of Reeves Grove Church and to the citizens of the surrounding community for their kind hospitality during its session in their midst." Resolution adopted.

The following resolution was offered by J. W. Lawley: "Resolved that the clerk of this association shall receive $8 00 for his services, and that he have as many minutes published with the remainder of the minute fund as is possible and distribute the same in

proportion to the amount of said fund sent up by each church." Resolution adopted.

On motion the Treasurer was directed to send the amount collected for the Orphans' Home to Rev. J. W. Stewart, and the amount collected for Brother T. S. Logan to T. H. Trammell his grandson.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Your committee recommend that for the next Associational year this body raise for missions, ministerial education and other purposes connected with our work the sum of three hundred dollars, and your committee makes the following apportionment of same to the churches within our bounds, towit:

Ashville	$50 00	Mount Pisgah	$15.00
Bethany	5.00	New Prospect (Jeff'n Co.)	3.00
Bethel	10.00	New Hope	4.00
Beulah	15.00	New Hope (St. Clair Co.)	40.00
Cedar Grove	6.00	New Prospect	10.00
Cane Creek	3 00	Pine Forest	5.00
Coal City	10 00	Pleasant Grove (Shelby Co)	3.00
Cooke Springs	10.00	Pleasant Site	3.00
Cool Springs	10.00	Pleasant Grove (St. Clair Co)	3.00
Eden	5.00	Providence	5.00
Friendship (St. Clair Co.)	10.00	Rock Springs	5.00
Greensport	5.00	Reeves Grove	10.00
Gum Springs	20.00	Sand Ridge	2.00
Harmony (St. Clair Co.)	3.00	Shiloh	3.00
Pleasant Ridge	5.00	Sulphur Spr'gs (Jeff'n Co)	5.00
Hopewell (St. Clair Co.)	15.00	Trinity (Shelby Co.)	3.00
Mount Castle	3.00	Union (St. Clair Co.)	2.00
Mount Pleasant	10.00	Union Springs	5.00
New Lebanon	5.00		
Total			$300.00

Of the above amounts 1-3 for missions, 1-3 for ministerial education, 1-6 for Orphans' Home and 1-6 for associational purposes. Churches are requested by the Association to take up collections for Ministerial Education and send amounts to Brother J. M. Adkins, Treasurer, by the 2nd Sabbath in February designtaing the young minister to whose benefit it is to be applied.

Respectfully submitted,
JOHN W. INZER, Chairman.

After singing the song, "How Firm a Foundation," prayer was offered by J. S. E. Robinson and the Association adjourned to meet in its next session with Cedar Grove church, within one mile of the town of Leeds on the Central of Georgia and the Southern Railroads, on Saturday before the second Sunday in September, 1900, at ten o'clock a. m.

A. A. HODGES, Moderator.
N. A. HOOD, Clerk.

NOTE—Minutes wanted to complete file, if you have any old minutes please send them to me at Ashville, Ala. The attention of the churches is called to the fact that funds for minutes are short, a little more money from each of the churches will get double the number of minutes.

N. A. HOOD, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

1. This Association shall be known by the name of THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

2. It shall be composed of delegates from the different churches in connection with this body together with each ordained minister, in good standing, living within the bounds of this association, who is actively engaged in ministerial work and who is a member of some one of the churches of the association.

3. Petitionary churches may be admitted into this body at any regular session, if, upon due examination, they be found orderly and orthodox, and their reception shall be manifested by the Moderator's giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

4. Any church may withdraw from this body at her own discretion, on application for dismission.

5. This body shall usurp no authority over the churches in our union nor infringe on any of their internal rights, but shall be considered only an advisory council relative to their internal affairs. It, however, may become necessary in some cases to have a uniform rule of proceedings, viz: If one church commits offense against another, it shall be the duty of the offended to labor with the offender for satisfaction. If she fail of success she shall call in the aid of two sister churches to assist in laboring for satisfaction; if satisfaction cannot be thus obtained, it shall be the duty of the aggrieved church to bring the case before the Association, to be decided upon according to its merits. And if a serious difficulty should arise in an individual church, which, upon due labor, she cannot reconcile, she may call in the aid of two or more churches to assist her in the work; then if the difficulty be not removed it may be the duty of the church to bring the case before the Association; but the Association will take cognizance of no case unless due course of proceedure has been previously pursued.

6. The churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of this Association written communications, specifying the names of their messengers, and state of the church since the last session.

7. Every church in our union shall be entitled to representation in the following manner, viz: A church containing fifty or less members shall be entitled to three representatives and one additional representative for every twenty-five members over fifty. Any church failing to represent herself as above described shall state her reason for such failure at the next annual session.

8. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular Rule of Decorum, which she is authorized to alter or amend at her discretion.

9. At every annual session of the Association a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer shall be chosen by ballot by and from the members present, and shall hold their offices until their successors are chosen. The Moderator shall preside over the deliberations of the body, preserve order and see that the Rules of Decorum are strictly observed. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a proper record of all transactions of the body. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all moneys from the hands of the Finance Committee and pay them out according to the order of the Association.

10. The Association shall have power to exclude from her union any church which shall violate the Constitution or depart from the orthodox principles of the Gospel or knowingly suffer any of her members to do so.

11. The Association shall furnish the churches with the Minutes of each session according to the funds sent up by each church.

12. Every query sent up by a particular church must be in her letter, certifying that she has endeavored to reconcile such difficulty and has failed. In such case the Association shall take it under consideration, and the voice of the majority shall be considered an advisory answer, which shall

be enrolled upon the minutes.

13. Queries that immediately concern the general union of churches, sent up by a particular church or introduced by a proper motion, shall be taken up and decided upon as soon as practicable.

14. There shall be an Association book provided, in which the Minutes of every annual session shall be recorded.

15. The Association shall not adjourn any annual session until she shall have finished all regular business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

16. Minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, and, if necessary, signed by the Moderator and Clerk before final adjournment.

17. In all cases a majority of the members present of the Association shall rule under the Constitution.

18 Giving or withholding charity from any benevolent object shall not be considered a breach of fellowship by this Association.

19. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any annual session when two-thirds of the members present think it necessary.

20. No member shall be elected Moderator of this Association more than two terms in succession.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2. The Moderator shall be deemed a judge of order, and shall have a right to call to order at any time. It shall be his duty also to see that the Rules of Decorum are strictly observed, to take the opinion of the Association on all questions properly brought before the body; and any member not satisfied with his decision on any point of order may appeal to the Association on the day of the decision, and at no other time.

3. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a record of the transactions of the Association.

4. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive and disburse all monies belonging to the Association according to its directions.

5. But one person shall speak at a time, and he shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator, using the appellation of "brother" in all discussions.

6. The Moderator, when addressed for leave of speech, shall signify the same by naming the brother, or otherwise

7. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject or use words of personal reflection, except it be to obtain order for a particular purpose.

8. Any motion made and seconded shall come under consideration, except withdrawn by him who made it.

9. The Moderator, after allowing time for debate, shall take the voice of the Association on questions that have been brought before it; and, if need be, by a rising vote.

10. When any question has been brought before the body, it must first be disposed of before any other question can be taken up.

11. No member shall depart during the service of the Association without leave.

12. The roll may be called as often as may be expedient.

13. No person shall be indulged in any practice that may cause interruption, or dishonor the Association.

14. The Moderator shall be allowed the privilege of debate, provided he appoint some other member to fill his seat while speaking; but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided, and then he shall give the casting vote.

15. No member of this body shall be permitted to speak more than twice on the same subject, unless to explain, without first obtaining leave from the Association.

16. Any member violating these rules shall be called to order by the Moderator, or removed at the discretion of the Association, but only on the day the breach is made.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF ST. CLAIR COUNTY ASSOCIATION, FOR YEAR 1899.

CHURCHES.	State Missions.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Bible and Colportage.	Ministerial Education.	Orphans' Home.	Minutes.	Indigent Ministers
1 Ashville	13 07				15 84	7 00	2 50	
2 Bethany							30	
3 Bethel	1 50	1 50	2 00			3 30	1 50	
4 Beulah						9 48	1 40	
5 Cedar Grove							1 00	
6 Coal City	5 03		5 05	1 00	5 00		1 70	1 09
7 Cooke Springs				3 17		1 77	1 25	
8 Cool Springs	3 00	3 00	4 00				1 15	
9 Friendship							1 50	
10 Greensport		2 50	2 50				50	
11 Gum Springs							1 60	
12 Harmony							50	
13 Hopewell							1 00	
14 Macedonia		35	40				75	
15 Mount Pisgah		2 50					1 50	
16 Mount Pleasant			3 41				2 00	
17 New Hope		7 50					2 04	
18 New Hope (Jeff'n Co.)							1 10	
19 New Lebanon							65	
20 New Prospect							1 00	
21 Pleasant Gr'e (Sh'y co)							1 50	
22 Providence							50	
23 Pine Forest							50	
24 Reeves Grove	2 00	2 00	6 00				1 35	
25 Rock Springs						1 72	75	
26 Sand Ridge		15	25				80	
27 Shiloh							30	
28 Union							50	
29 Union Springs	75	75	1 00			2 50	85	
30 Collection at Asso'tion			15 0			4 15		9 12
Total	$25 35	$20 25	$40 11	$4 17	$20 84	$29 92	$31 34	$10 12

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES.

ART. 1. We believe in one only true and living God—the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, three in one.

2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only true rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of original sin; of the depravity of human nature; of man's inability to recover himself from his fallen condition by his own free will and holiness.

4. We believe in the doctrine of election according to the foreknowledge of God through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the merits of Jesus Christ, and that good works are the external evidences of the Christian's justified state.

6. We believe that the saints shall persevere through grace, being kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, and not finally fall away.

7. We believe the Church of Christ to be a congregation of baptised believers, scripturally organized for the maintenance of the worship of God and the ordinances and duties of his house.

8. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, to be kept up by his Church until his second coming, and that true believers are the only scriptural subjects of baptism, and that immersion only is baptism, and that none but baptised believers have a right to the Lord's Supper.

9. We believe in a Divine call to the ministry, and that no man has a right to administer the ordinances of the church only such as have been called of God, regularly baptized, approved by the church, and come under the imposition of hands by a presbytery.

10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgement.

11. We believe that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

N. A. Hood, J. A. Glenn, S. J. Hare, J. S. E. Robinson, J. E. Stevenson, Ashville, Ala.
A. P. Cobb, Hood, Ala.
J. C. Harris, Moody, Ala.
J. W. Lawley, Branchville, Ala.
J. C. Bice, John Perry, Beaver Valley, Ala.
James Bowlin, Cottage Hill, Ala.
Paul Castleberry, C. J. Pike, R. C. Chaney, Easonville, Ala.
W. P. Lovell, Cooke Springs, Ala.
W. C. McLaughlin, Leeds, Ala.
J. A. Owen, J. O. Layton, Ragland, Ala.
G. W. Lovell Steels Depot, Ala.
W. I. Brasher, Vandiver, Ala.
F. F. Green, Murcle, Ala.
J. O. Chancy, Eden, Ala.
W. F. Linder, Vandiver, Ala.